

Gal 4 226

A N E C D O T E S

O F

A R C H E R Y,

ANCIENT AND MODERN.

By H. G. OLDFIELD.

R.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR; AND SOLD
BY T. AND J. EGERTON, WHITEHALL;
B. AND B. WHITE, FLEET STREET;
W. DARTON AND CO. GRACE-
CHURCH STREET; AND L.
AND S. WAYLAND, NO.
2, MIDDLE-ROW,
HOLBORN.

—
1791.

15



S. S. Banks 1791.

encouragement of the
elegant and talented
MOST NOBLE
ble science of Arch-
Marchioness of Salisbury.

MY LADY,

PRESUMING on
your Ladyship's well-
known liberality in the

encouragement of the elegant and fashionable science of Archery, I humbly inscribe the following compilations ; and should they meet with your Ladyship's approbation, it will be the highest ambition

[vii]

of

Your Ladyship's

Most devoted,

and

Very humble

Servant,

[H. G. OLDFIELD.

of
Your Ladyship
Most devoted
and
Very humble
Servant,
H. G. OLDFIELD.

TO THE
Admirers of Archery.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I Originally collected the materials of this small work solely for my amusement and better information on the

*the subject, without any
 intention of submitting
 them to your inspection,
 but being prevailed upon
 to lay them before the
 public, there is occasion
 to entreat your utmost
 candour in their favour,
 as they still bear their
 primitive form, & have
 received*

received very few additional touches. Trusting to your generous indulgence, I have the honour of subscribing myself,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your very Humble Servant,

H. G. OLDFIELD.

Great Scotland Yard,
Whitehall, Dec. 1790.

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

AN E C D O T E S

O F

A R C H E R Y.

AT the general distribution of faculties, the Omnipotent bestowed the power of invention on the human race alone. Man being endowed with this blessing, has produced many wonderful, but more useful discoveries. Derham somewhere observes, that the use of things which mankind had the great-

B

est

est occasion for, was found out long before others which are not so essential, or of pernicious consequences—necessity is the great assistant of invention—the aid of nature is seldom wanting—and chance is frequently the parent of great discoveries.

Archery is of so great antiquity, that at what time, and by whom first practised, is very uncertain; and whether the instruments thereof were the contrivance of necessity on some sudden emergency, or the discovery owing to the pure effects of chance, is equally doubtful.

The heathens attributed the invention of the bow to several different persons:—Pliny says Scythes, the son of Jupiter,

Jupiter, found it out; others consider Perſes, the ſon of Perſeus, as the inventor; but Diodorus, Siculus, and the majority, give the honour of the diſcovery to the God Apollo, who wore a crown of laurel becauſe he excelled every one in ſhooting and playing on the lyre. The ſtatue of Apollo Belvidere is ſuppoſed by antiquaries to have had a bow in the hand which is extended, and the mythology ſays Apollo flew the ſerpent Python with arrows.

No inſtrument has ſo generally obtained throughout the earth as the bow; very few nations but have ſome time or other uſed it, even now in many places it is a common

B 2 weapon.

weapon. This general prevalence makes it doubtful whether more persons than one may not justly lay claim to the invention as their own; we find it in the further parts of Asia, and the most northern of Europe; in Africa it is also common: It might originate from one man, and in process of time spread over this vast tract; but what are we to think of America, could it be communicated from hence to a land unknown? The first discoverers found the bow and arrows among the Americans: And if the invention is denied to more persons than one, the same quere arises as is made to the peopling of this quarter of the globe; for authors all agree

agree the antients knew no such place as America.

If we wish to fix upon an inventor for the noble science of archery, we can do it no other way than coincide with the heathens, and attribute the merit of it to Apollo, else we must leave it in the dark abyss of uncertainty. The invention is ingenious, and the contriver, let him be who he would, deserved the thanks of millions.

It is not improbable that Nimrod knew the use of the bow, considering he was a great hunter, and a man of war. We are certain that the later Patriarchs were not ignorant of it: The twenty-seventh chapter of Genesis says,

Ishmael.
Genesis
Chap: 21.
verse 20.

“ And it came to pass, that

B 3

“ when

“ when Isaac was old, and his
 “ eyes were dim, so that he
 “ could not see, he called
 “ Esau, his eldest son, and said
 “ unto him, my son ; and he
 “ said unto him, behold here
 “ am I. And he said, behold
 “ now, I am old, I know not
 “ the day of my death. Now
 “ therefore take I pray thee
 “ thy weapons, thy quiver and
 “ thy bow, and go out to the
 “ field, and take me some ve-
 “ nison ; and make me fa-
 “ voury meat such as I love,
 “ and bring it to me that I
 “ may eat, that my soul may
 “ bless thee before I die.”

From Esau the Israelites
 had no doubt the use of them,
 for we find mention made of
 the bow in many subsequent
 parts

parts of scripture, and also in Josephus the Jewish historian.

* * * *

The Grecians were well acquainted with these weapons, and their bow was (says Montfaucon) shaped after the fashion of the letter Σ . Ovid relates that Procris, the wife of Cephalus, in a jealous humour, watching her husband when he went hunting, hid herself in a thicket, and he perceiving a rustling imagined some wild beast had taken covert there: bending his unerring bow, he too late found he had killed his wife.

Hercules came with his wife Dejanira to the bank of the river Evenus, where Nessus the

the Centaur plied with a ferry boat, which not being large enough to hold both at once, he carried over Dejanira, and when arrived at the opposite bank, he attempted to carry her away by force, but Hercules immediately perceiving it killed him with an arrow.

At the siege of Troy, the bow and arrow were in common use ; the poets say that a Centaur was brought into the army who shot his arrows with such force as to pierce through two or three ranks.

Philoctetes, the son of Pæan, was the companion of Hercules, who at his death gave him his arrows, which Philoctetes carried to the siege of Troy, without which Calcas the soothsayer

soothfayer foretold the city could not be taken.

Achilles also was slain with an arrow shot at him by Paris, son of King Priam, when he was going to marry Polyxena in the temple of Apollo.

When Phyrrhus, King of Epyrus, was engaged before the walls of Sparta, Plutarch relates that "His horse received a shot in the belly with a Cretan arrow, and flouncing as he died, threw off Phyrrhus on slippery and very steep grounds; at which all about him being in a confusion, the Spartans came boldly up, and making good use of their arrows, forced the Epyriots off."

* * * *

It

It is not evident that the Romans, in the early part of the republic, had the bow. They made use of it however afterwards, though their archers were for the most part auxiliaries, yet they were not unacquainted with this exercise, as appears by the Emperor Commodus, who was uncommonly dexterous therein. They had masters at Rome to teach the art, among whom was T. Flavius Expeditus, whose image Spon has given from a sepulchral bas relief, where he is called Doctor Sagittourm.

* * * *

The Persians and Parthians were reckoned very expert bowmen ;

bowmen; and Herodotus speaking of the army of Xerxes mentions the following nations who were armed with bows and quivers; viz. the Persians, Medes, Assyrians, Scythians, Parthians, Indians, and Arabs, whose arrows for the most part were of cane, pointed with some hard consistence.

“ The Barbarians, who after the defeat of the younger
 “ Cyrus, pursued the Greeks,
 “ commanded by Chirifophus
 “ and Xenophon, had bows
 “ almost three cubits long;
 “ that is, four feet and an
 “ half; which may very well
 “ be, seeing some of the savages of America have them
 “ five or six feet long. These
 “ barbarians had also arrows
 “ of

“ of two cubits long, which
 “ when they drew, they clapped
 “ their left foot to one of
 “ the extremities of the bow,
 “ and with wonderful dexterity
 “ would in this manner
 “ let fly, and pierce the buck-
 “ lers and curiaffes of the ene-
 “ my. These archers were
 “ perhaps Persians, seeing
 “ those, according to Hero-
 “ dotus, had very great bows,
 “ and arrows of reeds. The
 “ Indians had also not only
 “ arrows, but bows also made
 “ of the reeds or canes of that
 “ country. The Arabians
 “ had likewise very great
 “ bows; but those of the
 “ Ethiopians, made of palm
 “ tree, surpassed them all in
 “ magnitude; for according
 “ to Strabo, they were four
 “ cubits

" cubits long, and seasoned in
 " the fire before they were
 " used. Their arrows also
 " were proportionably long,
 " and instead of iron points,
 " were pointed with sharp
 " stones of a very hard qua-
 " lity.

" The Lycian bows were
 " made of the cornel tree, and
 " the strings of these oriental
 " nations of camels finews.
 " Many of the barbarous na-
 " tions pointed their arrows
 " with bone instead of iron.
 " The Sarmatians, Pausanias
 " says, had no iron in their
 " country, and forasmuch as
 " they had no commerce with
 " other nations, and therefore
 " did not import any, they
 " pointed their darts with
 " stone; their bows and ar-

C

" rows

"rows were both made of the
 "cornel tree, and the last
 "pointed as their darts were,
 "with bone. The Germans,
 "Tacitus says, headed their
 "arrows with bone ; as did
 "the Huns, according to
 "Amianus Marcellinus."

The forms of the antient
 bow are pretty much alike,
 they have generally two in-
 flections or bendings, between
 which, in the place where the
 arrow is laid, is a right line :
 These sort of bows must be
 composed of three different
 pieces of wood to be of such
 a form, which of course would
 give it elasticity and a stronger
 spring.



The

The common weapons of the Indians are bows and arrows; Columbus found them among the Caribbs and West Indians. In his second voyage, meeting with a canoe with four men and one woman, who perceiving they could not baffle their pursuers, put themselves in a posture of defence, and the female shot an arrow with such force and dexterity, that it actually went through a strong target; but the Spaniard's attempting to board them, overset the canoe, so that they betook themselves to swimming, and one of them used his bow in the water as well as if he had been on dry land. Guadaloupe, at the first discovery, was inhabited by women only;

these amazons opposed the landing of the Spaniards with their bows and arrows.

Several of the Indian nations shot poisoned arrows, but to the honour of Indian humanity, the use of such horrible weapons was among the cannibal part of them chiefly. Sir Walter Raleigh met with some of these in his voyage up the country of Guiana; and Cavendish had one of his men killed with a poisoned arrow at Sierra Leona.

The Brasilians, when discovered by De Cabral, a Portuguese captain, used bows, which they shot so dexterously, as very seldom to miss their aim, and their arrows were pointed with fish bone that would penetrate the thickest

est boards. In Drake's voyage, the Brasilian bows are described of an ell in length.

De Gama, another Portuguese, found bows and arrows in the East Indian isles; they were also used in Calcutta, which he experienced to the loss of a number of his men.

When the renowned Sir Francis Drake was making his expedition by land to intercept the Spanish caravan loaded with treasure, falling short of provisions, and not daring to fire a gun lest he should hazard a discovery, the Symerons who accompanied him supplied him with food with their bows and arrows; these people consisted of such Indians who fled from the

cruelty of their masters, the Spaniards, and forming themselves into a strong body, built a town in an advantageous place, and resisted the Spaniards by force of arms.

* * * *

I find no mention of the bow among the Britons, and the Romans making but little use of it, such instruments were not common till the coming of the Saxons, who (according to Verstegan) first brought them into general use in this land, and they most like had the knowledge thereof from their ancestors, the Scythians, who are before mentioned as excellent archers.

Camden

Camden thus speaks of archery :

“ Amongst all the English artillery, archery challengeth the pre-eminency as peculiar to our nation, as the Sarissa was to the Macedonians, the Gesa to the old Gauls, the Framea to the Germans, the Machæra to the Greeks ; first shewed to the English by the Danes, brought in by the Normans, continued by their successors, to the great glory of England in atcheiving honourable victories.”

* * * *

The bows used by the English were long bows and cross bows : The long bow consisted of a single peice of wood,
commonly

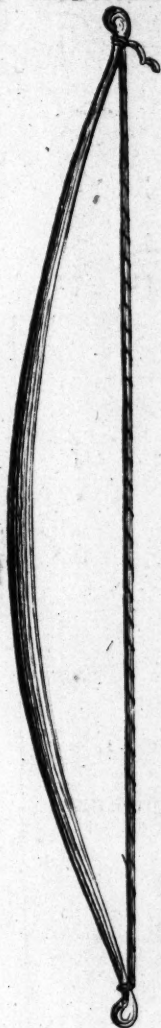
commonly yew, four or five feet long, the string of sinews or guts of animals; the arrows used with these bows were about a yard long, of light wood, headed with iron, and trimmed with feathers.

The cross bow was of steel, passing through a stock of wood, upon which it was charged; the arrows shot from these were short, and made of iron, with a pyramidal point. They sometimes shot stones from these instruments.

* * * *

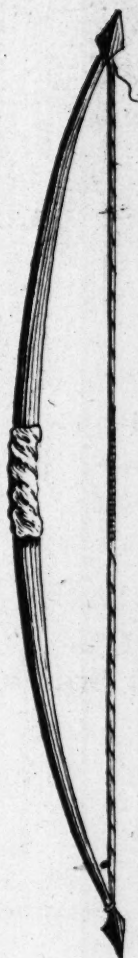
The bow was not confined to martial purposes alone, but it was also used in sporting; for birding there was a particular

Pa. 20



Ancient Bow.

Pa. 64



Modern Bow.

cular kind of arrow, called a bird-bolt. We read that Godfrey, of Bullogne, broached three swallows upon his arrow at one shot, when he commanded in the Holy-land, which being a thing very remarkable, he took the three birds for his coat of arms.

* * * *

The following accounts from the English annals I offer, as illustrative of bowmanry :

About the year 886, Lodebroch, a Danish chief, being in a small boat, hawking, attended only by his dog, was by a sudden tempest carried out to sea, and cast upon the coast of East Anglia, where he

he found an hospitable reception from King Edmund, who admired him much for his dexterity in sporting; this raised the jealousy of Bern, the King's falconer, who slew him one day when they were alone in a wood; soon after Lodebroch's dog came to the King's house half famished, and being fed, was immediately gone again; but repeating this, he was by the King's order watched, and the murder discovered. Bern was condemned to be put in the boat which Lodebroch arrived in, and turned adrift without tackle or food. The tide carried him to the place from whence it brought the other, where he told the people that King Edmund had killed

killed their chief, which enraged Hungar and Hubba to revenge their father's death ; coming with great numbers into East Anglia, they took Edmund, and because he professed christianity, they bound him to a stake and shot him to death with arrows. Edmund thus suffering martyrdom for his religion, was canonized, and the place where he was interred took the name of St. Edmund's Bury, by which it is at present known.

* * * *

King Alfred the great, when persecuted by the Danes, retired to a solitary place in Somersetshire, called Edelingfly, where, disguised as a
common

common soldier; he was entertained by a keeper of cows; and as he one day sat by the fire, trimming his bow and shafts, a loaf which was baking on the hearth, for want of turning, was scortched on one side; his hostess coming in, and seeing him entirely occupied with his weapons, snatched them away and upbraided him for not minding what, she said, he was glad to eat when dressed. The words she spoke Afferius thus records:

Heus Homo!

Urere quos cernio gyrare moraris,
Quum nimium gaudes hos mauducare calentes?

Which Spelman thus translates:

Cans't sit and see the bread burn thus (thou
for)
And cans't not turn what thou so well lov'st
hot? I

* * * *

I cannot discover that the English had any number of bowmen at the memorable battle of Hastings; but the Normans we are told had a considerable number of excellent archers, headed by Fitz Osbern. King Harold was wounded in the eye by an arrow from one of these Norman bows, and was soon after slain by some who considered his death as the most important fruit of their victory.

* * * *

King William the Conqueror was an admirable archer, and was so strong, that
D none

none but himself could bend
the bow he used. There is
this curious poetic charter re-
lating to archery extant in se-
veral of our historians:

I William King
In the third year of my reign,
Give to thee Norman Hunter,
To me that art dear,
The Hop and the Hoptown,
And all the bounds up and down
Under the earth to Hell,
Above the earth to Heaven,
From me and mine,
To thee and thine,
As good and as fair,
As ever mine were,
To witness that this is sooth,
I bite the wax with my tooth,
Before Judge Maud and Margery,
And my youngest son Henry,
For a bow and a broad arrow,
When I come to hunt upon Yarrow.

King William the Con-
queror was an admirable arch-
er. Not unlike was a tenure at
Sybbertoft, in Northampton-
shire,

shire, where Nicholas de Archer held a manor of King Edward the First, by the service of carrying the royal bow through all the forests in England.

King William Rufus, being hunting in the New Forest, in company with Sir Walter Tyrrell and others, this knight unfortunately let fly an arrow at the stag, which glancing against a tree, took a different direction, and pierced the King's breast, who immediately breaking off the part which was out of his body, fell down dead.

The

The morning before he was slain, he told his company, he dreamed the night before that an extreme cold wind passed through his sides; whereupon some dissuaded him from hunting that day, but he answered, They are no good Christians that regard dreams.

Inscriptions on a stone erected on the spot where this King was slain.

I.
Here stood the Oak tree on which an arrow shot by Sir Walter Tyrrel at a stag, glanced, and struck King William the 2d, surnamed Rufus, in the breast, of which he instantly

stantly died, on the 2d day
of August,

* A. D. 1100.

King William the 2d, sur-
named Rufus, being slain, as
is before related, was laid in
a cart belonging to one Pur-
kels, and drawn from thence
to Winchester, and buried in
the Cathedral church of that
city,

A. D. 1143.

* * *
III.

That whole an event so me-
morable had happened might
not be whereafter unknown,
this stone was set up by John
Lord Delawar, who has seen
the tree growing in this place.

* * * D² We

ismobi W

* * * *

We must not forget Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, who was, as his name implies, a mighty archer, and it is said his arms were so long, that he could touch his knees without stooping. He made himself famous by his exploits in Ireland.

* * * *

Nor can I forbear remembering Robin Hood, who, as the story goes, was the best marksman and stoutest archer of his time.

• • • •

Widomar

Widomar Viscount Limoges having found a great treasure, King Richard I. laid claim to it, as a prerogative of his royal crown, but this the Viscount refused, and would only let him have part. The enraged King immediately comes with a force to the castle of Chaluz, in order to compel him; but Widomar shut the gates against him. Richard thereupon laid close siege to the fortress, and one day approaching too near the walls, he was mortally wounded by an arrow shot from the bow of Bertram Gurdon.

The castle was at length taken by storm, and all in it put to the sword, except Bertram, who was reserved for a more exemplary punishment,
and

and being brought before the dying King, he asked why he so particularly aimed at him; the man undaunted, replied, in revenge for the death of a father and two brothers, who all fell by the King's weapons. Richard admiring the boldness of his answer, ordered him to be set at liberty, with a gratuity of an hundred shillings; but the King dying soon after, the Flemish commander ordered the bowman to be dead alive.

The Archiballista, or cross bow, was revived by King Richard the First. Our historians say it was with a quarrel, or bolt from one of these, that

that gave him his death wound.
Some of them also remark it
as a divine punishment for re-
viving the use of so destruc-
tive a machine. Camden says
William Briton, a French
poet, made these verses upon
the King's death, putting them
in the mouth of one of the
destinies:

*Hac volo non alia Richardum morte perire,
Ut qui Francigenis balistæ primitus usum
Tradidit, ipse sui rem primitus experiatur:
Quamque alios docuit in se rim sentiat artis.*

By my decree, his death shall Richard feel,
By piercing quarrel shot from bow of steel
He shall experience that which he made
known:

And fall by this invention of his own.

* * * *

The Pope's legate lived
some time at Oxford in great
splendour

splendour and luxury, maintaining a great number of domestics to prepare delicacies for his table—a poor hungry scholar going one day into his kitchen, begged of the cook (whose arrogance was proportionate to his masters) to give him some relief; he had no answer but a salute in the face with a ladle full of scalding broth. A Welch student standing by with a bow in his hand, was so enraged at this inhumanity, that he immediately killed the cook with an arrow.

* * * *

At the glorious battle of Crecy, the French had among them a body of Genoese archers,

ers, who at that time were reckoned excellent in the use of the bow; these having their bow strings moistened with rain, their arrows fell short for want of the usual elasticity. It is also recorded that the English had many bowmen, and the victory was chiefly owing to their valour and care in keeping their weapons dry.

In Rymer's *Fœdera* there is a writ of King Edward's, directed to the boroughs and corporate towns, requiring a certain quota of bow slaves, and sheaves of arrows, from each, to be used in the French wars.

The

• • • •

The English at the battle of Poitiers made good use of their arrows; and many other battles have been gained by the skill and valour of the English archers.

* * * *

At the battle of Hallidown Hill, the Scots had 10,000 men; the Percies of Northumberland opposed them. Speed gives us this description of the battle: "The chief feat was wrought by the English archers, who first with their stiff, close, and cruel storms of arrows, made their enemies footmen break, and when

when the noble Douglas descended to the charge, with his choicest bands, himself being in a most rich and excellently tempered armour, and the rest singularly well appointed; the Lord Percie's archers making a retreat, did withall deliver their deadly arrows, tam vividè, tam animosè, tam gravitèr, (saith our monk) so lively, so courageously, so greivously, that they ran through the men of arms, bored the helmets, peirced their very swords, beat their lances to the earth, and easily shot those who were more slightly armed, through and through. There were taken prisoners, the Earl of Doulgas himself (who, notwithstanding his armour of the best proof,

E had

had five wounds and lost an eye), Murdake Steward, Earl of Fife (eldest son to Robert Duke of Albany), George Earl of Angus, the Earls of Murrey and Orkney, the Lords Montgomery, Erskin, and Grane, with about fourscore Knights, besides Esquires and Gentlemen."

* * * *

The battle of Agincourt so remarkably illustrates archery, that a particular description will be to the purpose. To comprehend the singular resolution of our countrymen, it is necessary to explain the situation of each army. The French, ten times as numerous as the English, were commanded

manded by the Constable of France, and posted to the utmost advantage, their men in full health, fresh, and better acoutered than the English, who, to the disadvantage of being hemmed in, had the greater part of their men disordered for want of food and good accommodations ; their leader however was not exceeded in renown by any man. The French thought themselves so secure of victory, that they scoffingly sent to know what ransom King Henry would give ; he replied, the morrow would shew who had occasion to provide ransom. The enemy spent the night in rejoicing and feasting, whilst the English were sharpening their arrows and

trimming their bows. In the morning the French took the field, thronging who should be foremost, as to certain victory; and as they were chiefly horse, King Henry commanded two hundred bowmen to plant themselves in a meadow secured by a ditch and under cover of bushes, having stakes pointed at each end to plant against the approaches of the horses. The rest of his army he ranged in array, placing the men at arms in the main body, and the archers on each side; the vanguard, consisting solely of archers, was led by the Duke of York. Before the battle began, the King spoke these words: "Worthy soldiers, and faithful companions, we
are

are now going into the field of honour, exert yourselves to the utmost, that ages may know what the bow, lance, axe, and sword, can do in the hands of valiant men." When he had done, the army gave a shout, and the archers in the ambush darkened the air with their arrows, few of which were shot in vain; at the same time the main battle advancing, with such courage had the King's words inspired them, that though before they could scarcely bend their bows, they were now able to draw their yard-long arrows to the head. The French horse charged the archers, who fixed their stakes, and retiring behind them, were secure, and made terrible

slaughter of their enemies, the greater part of whose troops turned their backs and fled. The battle was a short time maintained by the French general and leaders, who courageously died, like men, on their enemies' points, rather than dishonourably retreat. Before evening the field was clear, and no enemy to be seen. King Henry demanded the name of the place, and being answered Agincourt, replied, " Let this battle be called by posterity, The Battle of Agincourt."

* * * *

In the battle of Bosworth, between King Richard III. and the Earl of Richmond, afterwards

Afterwards King Henry the Seventh, there were bowmen on both sides, who were ranged in front, and began the battle; the Duke of Norfolk commanded those on the side of King Richard, and the Earl of Oxford was captain of the Earl's archers. In Bosworth field was found, not many years since, the stock of a cross bow curiously carved; the figure of which is engraved in the Gentleman's Magazine.

* * * *

King Henry the Seventh instituted a band of archers to guard his person, under the title of Yeomen of the Guard. This band is at present established;

lished; but they are now armed with swords and a kind of halberts, instead of bows.— Still, to keep up the memory of their predecessors skill, they annually practice shooting with bow and arrows.

* * * *

A. D. 1513, James, King of Scotland, invaded the English borders. The Earl of Surry, Lieutenant in the north, advanced to meet him, with 26,000 men; under the Earl, Sir Edward Stanley commanded a reserved band of three companies of archers. The battle (which happened at Flodden field) was bloody, and terminated in the total defeat of the Scots, whose King, with

with the Archbishop of St. Andrews, two Abbots, twelve Earls, and seventeen Lords, were slain in the battle. The next day the body of King James was discovered among the dead, covered with wounds, and his sides stuck full of arrows. Notwithstanding he was so disfigured, he was known by the Lord Dacres, and honourably buried as a valiant warrior, in the monastery of Shene, in Surry.

* * * *

King Henry VIII. and his Queen Catherine came from Greenwich to Shooters-hill one May-day, where they were received by 200 archers clad

clad in green, with a captain personating Robin Hood, who first shewed the King the skill of his archers in shooting, after which the ladies were conducted into the wood and feasted with venison and wine in arbors and booths adorned with fine pageants.

* * * *

King Charles the First encouraged and enjoined the practice of bowmanry, and afterwards subscriptions were opened for establishing a company of archers for the service of the Parliament.

* * * *

The

The use of the bow has since the invention of gunpowder gradually decreased ; but archery has lately been drawn from obscurity, by societies of the nobility and gentry, who honour the memory of their ancestors so far as to patronize a science by which they attained so much renown.

THE company of Bowyers, that is, bow-makers, considering the use of the bow hath added much to the honour of the English, spreading their fame to distant parts, one would be apt to imagine were of great antiquity ; yet they were not incorporated till the 21st year of King James I.

* * * *

The company of Fletchers (i. e. manufacturers of arrows) were separate from the Bowyers, though there is no great reason to separate bows from arrows. But besides these two trades dependent on archery,

chery, there were two more ; namely, Stringers and Arrow-head makers. About the year 1570, these several trades conjunctively presented a petition to the Lord Treasurer, styling themselves the decayed companies of Bowyers, Fletchers, Stringers, and Arrow-head makers ; they had petitioned the Queen before, about the loss they sustained, on account of the discontinuance of archery. Hereupon a commission was granted to the heads of the companies of Bowyers and Fletchers, for enforcing the use of the bow according to the laws of the realm.

A. D. 1576, one Ralph Lane endeavoured to monopolize this commission to himself ;

self; he set forth in a writing, that archery would be upheld by three especial things: 1 The putting down unlawful games, 2 The setting up and repairing the butts and marks, 3 A plentiful provision of bows and arrows at a low price. His aim was to get vested with the enforcement of the commission for 21 years, and to be authorised to compel those who were without bows to purchase them of him at a statute price, whereby they might be not only compelled, but also allured to exercise themselves, and keep up the Butts.

There was a statute made Anno 1541, 33d. Hen. 8, for the maintenance and exercise of shooting in the long bow.

The

The foundations of the above petitions, &c. were built upon this statute ; as was also the commission in 1570, wherein commissioners were appointed in every county to promote archery, and examine if all persons, for themselves and dependants, had a sufficient quantity of bows, arrows, &c. But for all this commission to reform abuses, the art in many places was as little used as ever. Upon this, there was another commission issued the next year, requiring a return of the names of such persons as had not complied with the act ; also a list of such towns and villages as had since the first commission used and promoted shooting.

“ For the supply of this nation antiently with bow staves made of yew, the Italian merchants, by an old statute, provided in Edward the Fourth's time, were bound to bring bow staves into England. One Middlemore had a commission from the Queen to see the performance of this statute; the penalty whereof, by his officer, one Wanton, was required now of the Italian merchants, and particularly of one Diogenes Francischini, and other merchants of Venice, who were fain to make a complaint, by way of petition to the Lord Treasurer, shewing, that this bringing of bow staves was a matter of long time not used, and so not provided for by them
the

the Italian merchants; and also became impossible; for that the country from whence bow staves were had in King Edward the Fourth's days, had been in the Turks' possession, and none were within any of their trades; so that they could not perform that which then might have been, nor did know any such course of traffick, how to come by them; but was a matter wholly discontinued, as impossible.

“ Yet in former times, to supply this defect in our country, the Italian merchants touched at Spain, where they took in bow staves. The people of Castile purposely destroyed their woods, and provided by law that no such wood as yew should be preserved.

served. But notwithstanding it was urged by one Wanton afore said, that these Italians should be compelled to bring in bow staves from the parts adjoining to Venice and thereabouts, because the finest and best yew came from thence, and because their trading for bow staves with that people would encourage them to cherish and plant that wood, as they did vines and corinths, that is, for traffick sake."

* * * *

BOWS, arrows, &c. are frequently used in Heraldry ; most likely given to persons skilful in the use of them. I will give a few examples from among the nobility of the three kingdoms, &c.

Of the English nobility.

The Duke of Norfolk, on his bend, between six crosslets, bears an escutcheon charged with a demi lion peirced in the mouth with an arrow, within a double tressure flory and counterflory. This was an addition to the coat of his Grace's ancestor the Earl of Surry, who commanded

manded at Flodden-field, as before related, and given to him on that occasion, being part of the royal arms of Scotland.

The Marquis of Salisbury has for his crest six arrows girt with a belt, and over them a morion, or steel cap.

The crest of Lord Grey de Wilton is three arrows bound together with a ribband.

Lord Dorchester has for his crest a naked arm holding an arrow.

* * * *

Of the Scots nobility.

The Earl of Aberdeen has for his crest a pair of arms in the act of shooting with a bow

bow and arrow. This is as complete a representation of archery as I ever met with in arms.

Lord Elphinstone's supporters are, two savage men, with an arrow in one hand.

* * * *

Among the Irish nobility there are more examples than either among the English or Scots.

Earl of Besborough's crest, three arrows entwined by a snake.

Earl of Moria's supporters are two archers with a bow in one hand and quivers at their backs.

Earl Beſtve has for his crest an armed arm holding an arrow.

Earl

Earl of Portarlington has three arrows in his shield.

Earl of Carhampton's dexter supporter is an armed man with a bow in his right hand and a quiver at his back.

Viscount Valentia has a blackamoor armed, having a bow in his left hand, for a sinister supporter.

Viscount Ranelagh has the same crest as the Earl Bective.

Viscount Glerawley's sinister supporter is the same as Viscount Valentia's.

Lord Shuldham has for his dexter supporter a negro with a bow in his right hand and a quiver at his back.

* * * *

The

The Baronetal family of Hales have three arrows for arms, and an armed arm holding an arrow for a crest.

Sir Martin Bowes, who was Mayor of London, 37th Hen. 8, A. D. 1545, bare three bows bent, and on a chief a swan, having an annulet in his bill, between two leopard's faces.

The company of Fletcher's arms are three arrows.

The company of Apothecaries bare Apollo armed with a bow and arrow bestriding a Python.

* * * *

*Review of that part of Captain
Grofe's "TREATISE ON
ANCIENT ARMOUR AND
WEAPONS," which relates
to Archery.*

"The bow is a weapon of the most remote antiquity; we read of them in Holy Writ as being in use in the very early ages of the world; and in the Asiatic nations it was much esteemed, and still continues to be a principal weapon.

"Bows were of different forms; sometimes of two arches connected in the middle by a straight piece; and sometimes making one uniform curve, like the English bows of the present time. They were chiefly made of wood,

wood, of which yew was deemed the best; ash, elm, and witch hasel were also used. According to some of our ancient historians, the bow was introduced into England by the Normans: who therewith gained the battle of Hastings. But be this as it may, it is well known that soon after it's introduction it became the favourite weapon of the people, and by constant practice the English were allowed to be the best archers in Europe; and from time to time divers acts of parliament were made to enforce the practice of archery, to procure a supply of bow-staves from foreign countries, to oblige the arrow head makers to be careful in finishing and tempering their

G work,

work, and to furnish the distant counties with bowyers, fletchers, and arrow makers.

Every man under the age of sixty, except ecclesiastics and judges, was directed to exercise the art of shooting in the long bow ; and fathers, governors, and masters, to bring up the children under their care in the use thereof. Every man having a boy or boys in his house, was to provide for each of them, above the age of seven, and under that of seventeen years, a bow and two shafts : if servants, the cost of the bow and arrows might be deducted out of their wages.

The inhabitants of all cities and towns were ordered to make butts, and to keep them

them in repair, under a penalty of twenty shillings per month, and to exercise themselves in shooting at them on holidays. And hence it is that we derive the present names of sundry places, as Newington Butts, Brentford Butts, &c.

Arrows were anciently made of reeds, afterwards of cornel wood, and occasionally of every species of wood, but ash was esteemed the best; they were reckoned by sheaves, and a sheaf consisted of twenty-four arrows. They were carried in a quiver, (called also an arrow-case) which served for the store; those for immediate use were worn in the girdle.

The length of our antient bows was above six feet; but a gentleman now of the Archers Club, informed Captain Grose, that the best length for a bow is five feet eight inches from nock to nock, and that of an arrow two feet three inches; tho' they were formerly a cloth ell long. Our author is very diffuse upon the subject of bows and arrows, and the statutes respecting them, to whose work the curious are referred for that matter, for which the plan before them cannot find room.

“ The cross bow was an offensive weapon, which consisted of a bow fixed on the top of a sort of staff, or stock
of

of wood, which the string of the bow, when unbent, crossed at right angles. Cross bows not only shot arrows, but also darts, stones, and leaden balls. They were made of wood, horn, or steel, and the English had two sorts in use, the one sort called Latches, the other Prodds: these instruments would kill point blank from forty to sixty yards distance, and when elevated, above eight score."

* * * *

- A few words on the accoutrements of an archer will not be here amiss; the bow and arrow have been sufficiently treated of before. The other chief accoutrement is

G 3 usually

usually the Bugle Horn, or Belt Horn. The antiquity of this instrument is very remote, the uses of it several: the learned Mr. Pegge mentions the following in a tract read before the Antiquarian Society and published in their second vol. of *Archaeologia*: "Drinking Horns, Hunting Horns, Horns for summoning the people, or of a mixed kind."

* * * *

The Horn belonging to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, though shaped like the Bugle Horn, was certainly a Drinking Horn; it originally belonged to the guild of Corpus Christi, who
were

were founders of the College, and this horn was presented to the guild by Alderman John Goldcorne, A. D. 1347. It had once a cover, which has been long since lost.— The arms of the College are upon the large end, and the head at the other end is probably that of King Edward the Third.

* * * *

The Borstal Horn was an Hunting Horn. “ King Edward the Confessor had a royal palace at Brill, or Brehul, in Bucks, to which he often retired, for the pleasure of hunting in his forest of Bernwood. This forest, it is said, was much infested by a wild boar, which

which was at last slain by one Nigel, a huntsman, who presented the boar's head to the King ; and for a reward, the King gave to him one hyde of arable land, called *Derehyde*, and a wood called *Hulewood*, with the custody of the forest of Bernwood, to hold to him and his heirs *per unum cornu, quod est charta prædictæ forestæ*. Upon this ground Nigel built a lodge or mansion-house, called Borestall, in memory of the slain boar. For proof of this, in a large folio vellum book, containing transcripts of charters and evidences relating to this estate (supposed to have been written in or before the reign of Henry the Sixth), is a rude delineation of the site of Borestall



*Nigel the Huntsman presenting the Head of a Bear (which he had slain in
Berrwood Forest) to King Edward the Confessor — who returns him a
coat of arms*

stall house and manor, and under it the figure of a man presenting, on his knees, to the King the head of a boar on the point of a sword, and the King returning to him a coat of arms, Arg. a fesse G. between two crescents, and a horn vert, as represented in the plate."

"The original horn, tipped at each end with silver gilt, fitted with wreaths of leather to hang about the neck, with an old brass seal ring, a plate of brass with the sculpture of an horn, and several lesser plates of silver gilt, with fleurs de lis, has been all along preserved by the Lords of Bore-stall under the name of Nigel's horn, and is now (1773)

in

in the possession of John Aubrey, Esq."

* * * *

The Tutbury horn, "considering the nature of the owner's or bearer's offices, is an instrument of summons. The posts or offices conveyed by the horn, were those of Feodary, or Bailiff in Fee, Escheator, Coroner, and clerk of the Market, of the Honour of Tutbury;" and this horn was used (most like) as the bell is now for the commencement and discontinuance of the market. "The horn is white with a black tip, and on occasion intended to be worn."

The



The Pusey horn is one of the mixed kind—by it the family of Pusey hold the manor of that name, in the county of Berks, given of old to their ancestor by Canute the Danish King. The horn belonged to an ox—round the middle is “a ring of silver gilt, mounted on two hounds’ feet.” On the ring is this inscription:

Kyng Knowde geve
Wylliam Dewse
This horne to holde by
thy lond.

At the lesser extremity is a screw stopper in the shape of
an

an hound's head of silver gilt. When this was taken out it answered the purpose of founding, and when screwed in it served to drink out of.

* * * *

The late encouragement Archery has met with in this country demands a small literary tribute; and as I was very ignorant of the modern institutions, I purposely entered into a conversation with a gentleman well informed on the subject—a member of one of the societies at present established.

The first dawn of a modern society of Archers was upwards of twenty years ago; instituted under the title of
 Finsbury

Finsbury Archers, now obsolete, not more than two of the members are at present in being; one of which, Mr. Constable, is at present considered as Father of Archers; and if numerous prize arrows, &c. won by him ought to confer that title, it is undoubtedly his.

The late Sir Ashton Lever was the cause of the revival of the science, and the society of Toxophilites owe their origin to him. Many other institutions rose under different titles, as, the Hatfield Archers, under the patronage of Lady Salisbury; the Royal British Bowmen, which society shot for the prizes given by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the 3d

H of

of September, 1790. The ladies' prize, a gold medallion, was won by Lady Cunliff; and the gentleman's, a silver bugle horn, was gained by R. Hesketh, Esq.

The Caledonian, or Edinburgh Archers (the most numerous of any society, being above nine hundred in number), at whose grand match in 1789 Lord Aylesford attended, and the fame of his dexterity was blown so high, that the Caledonian band dreaded the issue of the encounter. Mr. Gray, the writer to the signet, who is an incomparable shot, won the prize.

The Royal Company of Archers in the month of August, 1790, shot on the banks of
of

of the Tweed for the antient arrow belonging to the town of Peebles, when Lord Elibank gained the prize.

The Loyal Archers assembled on St. George's day, at Lewisham, to contest for the prize, which was won by W. Foster, Esq.

The Yorkshire Archers, at their September meeting, shot for their medals; the gold medal was gained by W. Lee, Esq. and the two silver medals by J. Dixon, and J. P. Neville, Esqrs. The Countess of Mexbro' presided as patroness, and Earl Fitzwilliam as patron.

The Bowmen of Chevy Chace are a society formed in Northumberland; the patron, the Duke of that county,

who presented them with a silver arrow.

Other societies bear the following appellations :

Royal Kentish Bowmen,
Robin Hood Bowmen,
John of Gaunt Bowmen,
Woodmen of Arden,
Woodmen of Hornsey,
Henault Foresters,
Surry Archers,
Southampton Archers,
And several others, which I omit, not through design, but want of information.

The annual meeting of all the Archers in England is held on Blackheath.

The only books published on Archery (my friend informed me of) are, Wood's Bowman's Glory, and Ascam's

cam's Toxophilus; the former about a century ago, the latter near thirty years.

The manufactory for implements of Archery is at Leicester House, established by Mr. Waring.

* * * *

This extract from the rules and orders of one of the above societies will serve as a general description of their uniform.

“ That every member of this society shall provide himself a Uniform, and necessary Accoutrements for Shooting, which shall consist of a green coat, white waistcoat and breeches, with metal buttons, having the arrow and bugle
horn

horn engraved thereon, a black hat, green and white feather, white stockings, half boots, a buff-coloured leather belt, with a pouch and green tassel, and black leather brace.

“ That no member be allowed to shoot at a General Meeting, unless he is dressed in his uniform and accoutrements complete, nor at any other meeting, unless in his uniform coat and waistcoat.

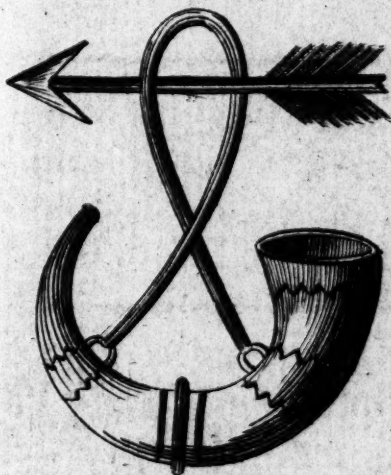


F I N I S.

ERRATA.

Page 3 Line 4 dele comma after Diodorus

- 8 — 10 for seige read siege
— 21 for do. r. do.
10 — 18 for sagitourm r. sagittorum
12 — 4 for extremeties r. extremities
— 8 for Curiasses r. Cuirasses
21 — 3 dele comma after Godfrey
24 — 7 for scortched r. scorched
27 — 14 for peirced r. pierced
50 — 4 for puting r. putting
70 — 6 r. an instrument



ATA333

[illegible]